MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of

1. Messrs. C. P. Tarakan
2. Kallur Narayana Pillai
3. I. C. Chacko
4. P. Gomatinayagom Pillai
5. M. Subrahmanya Pillai
6. A. J. John
7. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar
8. Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai and
9. The mover to report on it within three months.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I second the motion.

PRESIDENT: May I take it that the House agrees to the motion?

The motion was carried.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai will be the Chairman of the Committee.

THE PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION BILL.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I rise to introduce a Bill to provide for the grant of probate of wills and letters of administration to the estates of deceased persons. The Bill has been published in the Gazette with a Statement of objects and reasons. I beg to move that the Bill be read in Council.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I second the motion.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I shall now briefly explain the general principles of the Bill. The Bill as its title would indicate is intended to provide for the grant of probate of wills and letters of administration to the estates of deceased persons. The title and the Bill contain certain technical expressions not in vogue in Travancore and not perhaps readily understood here although in other countries, which have had a probate and administration law for long, they might be readily understood. Of these expressions, I think, I may at the very outset explain what probate of wills and letters of administration mean. I take it that the word "will" does not require explanation. It, of course, means the legal declaration of the intentions of the testator, *i. e.*, the person executing the will, with regard to his property which he desires to carry into effect after his death. But a will has to be proved, so that its purport may be carried out or enforced against those who would dispute it, and this brings us to the word "probate of a will".

"Probate" used as a noun literally means "proof". Both the words "probate" and "proof" are derived from the same root 'probare' whose past participle is 'probatus'. Technically probate means the official proof of a will, to put it in a brief way. To go into a little more detail

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'probate' means the determination of the Court before which the will is produced and propounded that the paper, purporting to be a will, is the will and testament of the deceased and its admission thereupon to record as such. It determines or implies that the instrument *is* genuine and regular in form and execution and that the testator was competent to execute the will. Of course, a will may, if registered, be proved in Travancore even now as between party and party in a Court of Law. But that proof will avail only as between themselves and it has to be proved, again if another party contests it. But in the case of the proof called probate the proof is conclusive and is binding on the whole world. If the will is however an unregistered one, no proof whatever of the will is allowed by law owing to the fact that there is no probate law now in Travancore. That has been ruled recently by a Full Bench of the High Court. In this Bill, as in corresponding Statutes elsewhere, the word "probate" means not exactly the proof of the will but a copy of the will so proved and authenticated by the Court with its seal together with the express grant of legal authority to carry out the provisions of the will. Probate is thus an instrument of Court and is granted to an executor appointed under the will.

I would come next to the term "letters of administration". Letters of administration also mean an instrument of Court, being the written instrument granted by a court authorising the grantee, who is called the administrator, to administer the goods and estates of a deceased person. Members may know what the administration of the estate of a deceased person means. It means, generally speaking, the management and disposal, under legal authority, of the estate of a deceased person whether by the executor or administrator, the correct expression for the management and disposal by the *executor* being strictly "execution", which expression however is not now generally used. Those who have long been under the marumakkathayam system or the joint family system may not readily appreciate what is involved in the administration of an estate. For, in a Tarwad or joint family, there is strictly no estate to be administrated. The Tarwad or family is a corporation and it never dies. The Tarwad or family property belongs to the corporation. The Karnavan or Kartha, the manager or the man in possession may die individually but legally, and in regard to the estate, the Karnavan never dies—just in the same way as a king never dies. What is proclaimed on the death of the king "The king is dead, long live the king" may be appositely described of the Karnavan of the Tarwad and the Kartha of a family. Thus, to say that the 'Karnavan is dead, long live the karnavan' will be quite correct legally. In such a condition of things, the succeeding man the Karnavan or Kartha simply steps into the shoes of the deceased man and represents the corporation and he has legal authority to manage the entire family property. He is the man to be legally in possession of the properties. He is the man legally bound to pay the maintenance to those entitled to it, to discharge debts, to collect debts, to redeem properties, to surrender properties, to defend suits,

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to prosecute suits and so on. But imagine for a moment a man dying leaving a few children and that he is one whose property would in law descend to the children in equal or in varying shares, one who is able to dispose of the property by will as is the case with almost every community in Travancore now. Such a man dies leaving an estate and nobody can straightway say 'I represent the estate.' There are many people who would claim rights to the estate and in different degrees and kinds. There may be sons and daughters. He may have left a will and there may be legatees. There may be creditors and so on. All of them have rights in the estate. The variations in rights may be caused also by the difference in law applicable to the man who leaves the estate. It may differ amongst Nayars, Christians, Mahomedans, Vellalas, and Ezhavas. After the recent social legislations affecting the Nayars, Ezhavas and Vellalas, the members of almost every community in Travancore leave an estate when they die, and it has to be taken and divided by different persons and utilised by different men for different purposes. Who will do all these or cause all these things to be done? Who has the legal authority to take charge of the estate and carry out all the purposes to which it is subject? One child by himself, even the eldest, cannot do it. For what is his special right or authority over others. And then there may be legatees and there may be creditors and they may not all agree as to the disposal of the estates who then will represent the estate and who is the man that will have legal authority to take charge of and to manage the estate if any debts have to be paid. Which of the children will pay and how will he pay out of the estate? It may be that all the children are not available to dispose the estate. Some may be in different parts, some may be minors, some may be perverse and may not agree and some may dishonestly disagree. But debts have to be paid and probably a property has to be sold for it. Even a lakh of rupees worth of property, it is well known, will be lost entirely if even 10,000 rupees debts cannot be paid promptly. But who will sell the property and pay off the debts? Then again, who will distribute the property among the heirs and legatees or meet other charges on the estate? Who will give maintenance to those entitled? Who has the right to collect debts, to prosecute suits and defend suits? All these acts as said already form part of the administration of the estate. When there are many heirs and many demands, somebody must be clothed with legal authority to do all these, and this management and disposal of the estate by him is called the administration of the estate. The letters of administration grant a legal and formal authority to the grantee, the administrator, to so administer the estate, the authority being one that will not be allowed to be questioned and one that will prevail against all the heirs and legatees and in fact against the whole world.

Now if members will kindly turn to Chapter I of the Bill and read the definitions they may readily follow what is stated.

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'Will' means the legal declaration of the intention of the testator with respect to the property which he desires to be carried into effect after his death.

'Probate' means the copy of a will certified under the seal of a Court of competent jurisdiction with a grant of administration to the estate of the testator.

'Administrator' means a person appointed by competent authority to administer the estate of a deceased person when there is no executor capable and willing to act as such.

Letters of Administration mean the instrument granted to the administrator authorising him to administer the estate. To get a concrete idea of what Probates and Letters of Administration are like, the members may now turn to clauses 74 and 75 of the Bill which give the usual form of a probate and letters of administration. This is the form of a probate :

"I, so and so, Judge of the District of, or (Delegate appointed for granting probate or letters of administration in such and such place) hereby make known that on the such and such day of such and such month in the year such and such the last will of so and so, late of such and such a copy whereof is hereunto annexed, was proved and registered before me and that administration of property and credits of the said deceased, and in any way concerning his will, was granted to so and so, the executor in the said will, named, he having undertaken to administer the same and to make a full and true inventory of the said property and credits and exhibt the same in this court within six months from the date of this grant or within such further time as the court may from time to time appoint, and also to render to this court a true account of the said property and credits within one year from the same date or within such further time as the court may from time to time appoint".

Then in the next clause you find the form for letters of administration:

"I so and so, Judge of the district of ' ' or Delegate appointed for granting probate or letters of administration in such and such place do hereby make known that on the such and such day of such and such month and year letters of administration (with or without the will annexed as the case may be) of the property and credits of so and so late of such and such, deceased were granted to so and so, the father (or so and so as the case may be) of the deceased, he having undertaken to administer the same and to make a full and true inventory of the said property and credits, and exhibits the same in this Court within six months from the date of this grant or within such further time as the Court may from time to time appoint, and also to render to this Court a true account of the said property and credits within one year from the same date or within such further time as the Court may from time to time appoint."

It is the executor under a will that gets the probate, and the man who gets the letters of administration is the administrator. These executors and administrators are the unquestionable representatives of the deceased and they stand in the shoes of the deceased. The estate vests in them and they can do all that is necessary for the estate in the same way as would have been done by the deceased man himself. Once such a representative has been created none can say that anybody else is the representative. Clause 4 and others provide for this. I am not going to trouble the House by reading all the clauses. But one or two may be read.

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For example, Clause 4 is this:

"The executor or administrator, as the case may be, of a deceased person is his legal representative, for all purposes and all the property of the deceased person vests in him as such."

Another equally important clause is clause 59 which runs as follows:—

"Probate or letters of administration shall have effect over all the properties, moveable or immoveable of the deceased throughout Travavancore,

"and shall be conclusive as to the representative title against all debtors of the deceased and all persons holding property which belongs to him,

"and shall afford full indemnity to all debtors paying their debts, and all persons delivering up such property to the persons to whom such probate or letters of administration shall have been granted."

Thus then, the central object of the Bill, is to provide for the creation of an unquestionable representative of a deceased's estate, a representative whose title has to be accepted by every one, the heirs, the legatees and all, one who has got ample powers but one who acts more or less under the control of the court, one with whom any person may deal with safety, without any fear of his representative character being ever called into question, one who could sell properties, if need be, to pay off debts, one who could provide for the maintenance of Stridhanam and one who could pay legacies and distribute the assets, and so on. Such a power for the creation of a legal representative exists in other countries. It existed very long ago in England, it having been exercised by the Ecclesiastical Courts. But by the passing of the Probate Acts of 1857 and 1858 the powers came to be exercised by the King's Court in England. Law has been enacted for the purpose in British India long ago applying to various communities, and also in Mysore in the year 1914, and in Cochin in the year 1921. And this Bill is framed on the lines of the law in British India, Mysore and Cochin.

But it may be asked, what is the good in creating a representative especially one whose title is conclusive, one whose title to deal with the property is unquestionable and will be accepted by the whole world including all the courts of law. The ordinary rule, of course, is that a declaration of any title obtained from a court is binding only as between the parties to that action but not as against others. But a grant of probate or letters of administration confer on the grantee a title that is complete and conclusive, as against the whole world, as the representative of the estate of the deceased. Members may readily see the advantages of clothing any person with such an unquestionable title if they will only imagine the difficulties in administering an estate. Take for example the simple case of an estate having to pay a debt. The estate may be worth a lakh of rupees and debt may be but only rupees ten thousand, and some property has to be alienated for the purpose of paying the debts. If the debt is not paid the whole estate may be sold by the court at the instance of the creditors. So somebody

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must sell some portion of the estate. Can one son by himself do it? There may be others and minor sons too, some living at a distance, sons who are not in amicable terms with the others and then there may be legatees; there may be too some whose claim to the estate, either as son or as legatees, may be disputed. In such circumstances, if one or more of these persons sell or mortgage a portion of the property, who will be there to purchase it? For, an unquestionably legal title cannot be conveyed. And if anybody comes forward to purchase, he will not offer a fair price; for he must provide for possible litigation about the title he gets. But if there is an unquestionable representative any person can safely deal with such representative. The representative can readily sell or mortgage a reasonable portion of the estate and pay the debt, and the purchaser or mortragee gets an unimpeachable title and so he readily offers a fair price. So also in regard to the other demands on the estate, such as legacies, shares, maintenance charges etc. When there is an unchallengable representative, he can give all the legacies, he can distribute the shares, he can provide for the maintenance charges, he can prosecute suits, he can collect debts and so on. Not only so; he is bound to do all these and the Bill provides that he should do all these more or less under the control and supervision of the court. There will be no necessity for any unnecessary litigation. There will be absolutely no trouble and difficulty for anybody. And even helpless women and children will be quite safe.

In other countries where there is a probate and administration law it is especially provided that no right to the estate of the deceased persons can be established in a court of law against anybody, or in any circumstances, unless probate or letters of administration have been granted in respect of the estate. In other words, if ever a question relating to the estate or any title derived from the estate goes to a court, there must be a probate or letters of administration; else the court will not hear the claim. It is felt that to make a similar provision here may be hard on the people. It may be desirable to provide a machinery for clothing a person, if anybody wants it, with a complete and conclusive title as the representative of an estate. But it may be hard to insist on it as a condition precedent in every case inasmuch as it may tend to impose on a multitude of poor and ignorant people, even in cases where there is no difficulty or dispute, an unnecessary amount of trouble and expense. It is therefore not made compulsory in this Bill that every one who wants to establish a right to any part of a deceased's estate should resort to this proposed law and obtain a grant of probate or administration. But if once a grant is obtained, the grantee gets a complete and conclusive title and the advantages of having such an unquestionable representative of a deceased man's estate have been adverted to. To those therefore who would take advantage of the provisions of this proposed law, the resulting benefits in quieting title and obviating litigation cannot be exaggerated; and it is hoped that as the law begins to be understood and appreciated by the people they will take largely to its provisions.

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[Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai.]

It is proposed to charge a small fee for the grant of probate and letters of administration in the same way as in the case of the succession certificates. I believe it will not be felt to be too much having regard to the advantages to be derived by the grant of probate and letters of administration. Probate is to be granted by the District Court. Provision is made here for the grant being made by others called delegates; and they will exercise this power only in cases where there is not much controversy. In cases of controversy and dispute the District Court will inquire and there will be a regular appeal therefrom. Probably it may be urged that there is no necessity for this legislation so long as there is already provision for the grant of succession certificates. I have explained it fully in the statement of objects and reasons and I believe I need not read it over now. The House may be aware that if a man wants to sue for a debt due to his deceased father or other relative of whom he claims to be the representative, such person will have to obtain succession certificate before he files the suit. It may be asked, which will prevail as between a succession certificate and a probate or letters of administration. In such cases it is provided that the probate should prevail, and the reason is that the succession certificate is granted only on a summary inquiry. It has also been provided that in cases where probates or letters of administration have been obtained there is no necessity for getting a succession certificate and as said just now, when the succession certificate and the probate or letters of administration conflict with each other the latter should prevail. At present the fee charged for a succession certificate is 1½% at the outset and 2% for extension of the certificate. Under this Bill, no fee whatever will be charged for probates and letters of administration relating to estates worth rupees one thousand or less. In other cases a fee of 2½% is proposed to be charged and a graded scale of higher fees has also been provided for, for larger estates. I do not think the fee will be considered too much in the light of the advantages to be derived by the grant of probate and letters of administration. These will avoid a lot of trouble and unnecessary and useless litigation and one should not grudge to pay a little for such advantages. The measure is a new one in Travancore but is a very useful one, and I hope that it will commend itself to the House.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in welcoming this piece of legislation. The Travancore Wills Regulation was passed, I think, in 1074; in other words, it is now nearly 30 years since it was passed. Under that Regulation a will can be relied upon only if it is deposited before the District Registrar, or is registered, or is admitted to proof under the law for the time being in force. These are the three conditions mentioned in that Regulation. Very few people deposit their wills before the Registrars, and still less have their wills registered before death. It is very difficult to get the will registered when the person is dying since the Registrar has to be called in time. It is with difficulty that wills are registered even after the death of the testator. Even if all that

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is done that does not give any material advantage to the person who takes the trouble of getting it registered; because if any person disputes it it has to be proved over again. Therefore, although registration is some evidence of the fact that the persons signed the will, it does not in the least show that at the time he signed it he was of a sound disposing mind or whether there were various other circumstances which are necessary for validating a will. The existence of all those circumstances should be proved by the person relying on the will. Wills therefore have to be fought out by means of regular suits; and I believe; we have to pay five per cent *ad valorem* fees for Government adopting a will. That being the case the present bill secures to the public a long felt want, namely, by providing for the proof of a will. As was pointed out by Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, even though in a particular suit a will may be proved, it will be binding only upon the parties to the suit. If in any subsequent suit the will is questioned it will have to be proved over again. This will naturally entail considerable expense and delay to the public. But if once a probate has been obtained it tantamounts to what in law is called a judgment *in rem*, that is to say a judgment binding upon the whole world, and even on foreign courts. Therefore it is all the more desirable that when there is a dispute about a will the dispute should be settled once and for all as early as possible, and that by a proper tribunal. Hitherto evidently much difficulty was not felt in this matter because there were very few wills which had to be considered by courts of law. The difficulty was not therefore seriously felt. But now, on account of many of our social legislations, whether it is the Nayar Regulation, or the Ezhava Regulation or the Vellala Regulation or the Christian Regulation, every body is allowed to will away his property absolutely to any body he likes. Therefore there is necessity now for a law which will admit of probates being granted to the wills left by the deceased persons. I may also say, in the case of persons who do not leave a will, letters of administration will be equally necessary. I know one instance of a European British subject, a planter, who died suddenly and the difficulty was who was to obtain possession of his estate in Travancore. Ultimately, with some difficulty, by some sort of adjustments, the Agent to the Governor-General took possession of his property until the legitimate heir came in. We would have been saved of such difficulties if a provision for grant of letters of administration had been in existence. Therefore the bill that my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai has placed before the Council supplies a want that has been felt for some time and I dare say it will meet with the approval of the House, and that the principle of the bill will be affirmed.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I agree with the learned Deputy President in considering that the measure before the House is a welcome piece of legislation. Nearly thirty years ago was passed a Regulation called the Travancore Wills Regulation. It was provided in that Regulation that among others wills *admitted to proof* will be valid wills in Travancore. Though that provision was enacted

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about thirty years ago, till now no law regulating probate or letters of administration has been enacted in the State. So much so the only two methods in which wills can be executed now in Travancore are (1) by actually registering the will and (2) by the deposit of the will under the provisions of the Registration Regulation.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): How were the people managing before thirty years ago?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Then, Courts did not take into consideration the validity of any will at all. For in the celebrated Nedumpuram Escheat case, the last surviving member of the family had executed a will, and when that will was produced before the Alleppey Court in O. S. 179 of 1070 (*Laughter.*) by the legatees under the will the Court said that there was no law in Travancore which compelled the Court to take notice of a will. Therefore the legatees did not succeed in Travancore with respect to the properties in Travancore. But on the strength of this identical will they succeeded with respect to the properties situated in British Malabar. The rumblings of that litigation are heard even now in courts with respect to what follows. That was the law about 30 years ago. Under the Hindu Law wills met with a tardy recognition at the hands of jurists and judges. Anyhow they ultimately gave recognition to wills under the Hindu system of law.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is willing away an accepted principle under the Hindu Law?

MR. P K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In fact it was with considerable difficulty that it was recognised, I suppose, by the Privy Council in Tagore *Versus* Tagore—not Mr. Rabindranath Tagore (*Laughter*). Though there has been provision in the Wills Regulation nothing like a Probate Law has been enacted in this State. So much so with respect to wills not registered and not deposited it was a serious trouble. In many cases they were not recognised at all. And the hardship of that was felt mainly by some of our Christian brothren in whose case the execution of testaments seems to be more prevalent than among the Hindu Section of the public. They had to resort to Sub-Registrars so that their wills might be deposited or registered under the Registration Regulation. During my stay at Kottayam I have come across instances where, as life begins to flicker, people make their wills and leave them unregistered with the result that in course of time the unregistered wills count for nothing. It is a very serious difficulty. Even unregistered wills could be recognised, but having enacted a Wills Regulation it was not possible for legal ingenuity to get unregistered wills recognised. The Wills Regulation may now probably be seen to have been considerably nibbled away by the Legislative activities recently undertaken in this Council. For the purpose of the Nayar Regulation, for the purpose of the Ezhava Regulation, for the purpose of the Nanjinad Vellala Regulation and for the purpose of

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other Regulations, we have been repealing various portions of the Wills Regulation, with the result that it is something like a series of islets not connected right through but with many interstices here and there. Only small remnants of the Wills Regulation now survive for our guidance. Viewing the matter of the Wills Regulation in that decrepit condition, it is high time that something is done in the direction of enacting a Probate and Letters of Administration Law. How seriously people are affected by the absence of such a law in the administration of property may be understood by some recent occurrences in Travancore. The other day in the High Court the question was raised whether an ordinary suit for administration would lie in Travancore. It was very ably argued that a suit would lie. And it was equally ably contested by the opposite side. I do not know whether their Honours have pronounced judgment in that case. And again with respect to recent deaths of certain traders and merchants, there appears to have been considerable difficulty in distributing the residue of the deceased's estate among creditors and the heirs of the deceased. The chances are that there is very great difficulty in doing anything fairly by the deceased man. In these circumstances, it is none too early that this Bill is presented by my friend Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai before this House. I have got very great pleasure in welcoming a piece of legislation of this useful description. And with respect to the principle of the Bill, very little need be said except that I accept it. Of course, there are grounds on which difference of opinion may be felt even in the small summary given by my friend, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai. But all that might be left to the select committee, to sit and consider. With these words, I am heartily in agreement in considering that the principle of the Bill may be accepted and the matter referred to a select committee.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I have got just a word to say, and that in opposing the principle of the Bill. We consider man as a social animal from the sociological point of view. I would consider from the point of view however of Law that man is a family animal. No man has got the right to will away the property while he has a relation left. I can visualise the state of affairs in which a man who leaves behind him a wife and children, an old father and an old mother and yet who may have at the last moment a lack of sense to give away all his properties to one who may be attending on him or who may happen to be his favourite. It is for that purpose that I put the question whether the principle is recognised in the Hindu Law. My own impression is that it is not recognised in the Hindu Law, and I think they were quite wise in not recognising it.

MR. V. SUBBA AYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*) : It is too late now to enunciate such a principle.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : The learned Deputy President with all his experience behind him just pointed out, though sitting, that it is too late now to enunciate a principle like this, because the principle of willing away has been accepted in all legislations. But it is never too late to mend.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Can it be mended by opposing this Bill?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): What I say is that we have to oppose it at some stage. If I had been present when the provision was made to will away property, I would have opposed it. This is the earliest opportunity I have got to oppose it.

MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI (*Agastisvaram*): Was he not here when the Nanjinad Vellala Bill was passed?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not think it was the time for me to oppose it. Somehow or other the principle has crept into so many legislations. You want to solidify and recognise it as a great fundamental principle and provide safe-guards to perpetuate it. I only want to sound a warning that we are moving in a wrong direction. I know my voice will be in the wilderness; still I think, I must speak out what I feel.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Sir, I have nothing to add to what I have said already. The question may now be put.

PRESIDENT: The question is that the Council do approve the principle of the Bill and accept the motion for the reading of the Bill in Council.

The Motion was carried.

The Secretary then read the title of the Bill.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I move that the Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of:

1. Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.
2. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.
3. Mr. K. I. Joseph.
4. Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai.
5. Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.
6. Mr. K. K. Thomas.
7. Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.
8. Mr. K. N. Ramasubba Aiyar.
9. Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, and
10. The mover to report on it within three months.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House accepts the motion. The motion was carried.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Subba Aiyar will be the Chairman of the select committee.

We will now adjourn.

The Council adjourned *sine die* at 3·59 P. M.

P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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